Course Outline
Critical Thinking

Course Description:
This course introduces students to the basics of reasoning. Reasoning well involves the acquisition and evaluation of beliefs, the development and evaluation of arguments, and recognition of inappropriate, weak, or unsupported reasoning practices. The first section of this course covers arguments and the use of language. The second section focuses on deductive arguments, inductive arguments, and recognition of fallacies. The last section of this course applies what students have learned to issues related to expertise, voting, fake news and misinformation, communication, writing, avoiding deception, and scientific reasoning.

Course Texts:
I am aware of the financial impediments posed by acquiring materials for class. To remove this potential barrier to your academic success, all readings are free-to-use and made available electronically.

Course Reading Schedule:
Day 1: Introduction
Day 2: Statements, Arguments, and Issues
Reading: Dowden, *Logical Reasoning* (pp. 24-32)

Day 3: Indicator Words and Standard Form
Reading: Dowden, *Logical Reasoning* (pp. 32-38 and 40-41)
Day 4: Implicit Premises and Unstated Conclusions
Reading: Dowden, *Logical Reasoning* (pp. 47-55)

Day 5: Precision and Ambiguity
Reading: Dowden, *Logical Reasoning* (pp. 91-101)
Day 6: Vagueness and Generality
Reading: Dowden, *Logical Reasoning* (pp. 101-109)

Day 7: Terms and Definitions
Reading: Dowden, *Logical Reasoning* (pp. 111-122)
Day 8: Deductive and Inductive Arguments
Reading: Van Cleave, *Introduction to Logic and Critical Thinking* (pp. 23-25)

Day 9: Deductive Validity and Soundness
Reading: Van Cleave, *Introduction to Logic and Critical Thinking* (pp. 18-23)
Day 10: Common Deductive Arguments I
Reading: No Reading

Day 11: Common Deductive Arguments II
Reading: No Reading
Day 12: Induction and Samples
Reading: Dowden, *Logical Reasoning* (pp. 432-449)

Day 13: Common Inductive Arguments I
Reading: Dowden, *Logical Reasoning* (pp. 450-456)
Day 14: Common Inductive Arguments II
Reading: Dowden, *Logical Reasoning* (pp. 457-461)

Day 15: Informal Fallacies I
Reading: Van Cleave, *Introduction to Logic and Critical Thinking* (pp. 187-193)
Day 16: Informal Fallacies II
Reading: Van Cleave, *Introduction to Logic and Critical Thinking* (pp. 193-201)

Day 17: Informal Fallacies III
Reading: Van Cleave, *Introduction to Logic and Critical Thinking* (pp. 201-206)
Day 18: Informal Fallacies IV
Reading: Van Cleave, *Introduction to Logic and Critical Thinking* (pp. 206-208)

Day 19: The Principle of Charity and Fidelity
Reading: Dowden, *Logical Reasoning* (pp. 143-145)
Day 20: Credibility and Experts
Reading: Dowden, *Logical Reasoning* (pp. 146-157)

Day 21: Critical Thinking and Voting
Reading: Dowden, *Logical Reasoning* (pp. 158-163)
Day 22: Fake News and Misinformation
Reading: Dowden, *Logical Reasoning* (pp. 164-171)

Day 23: Critical Thinking and Communication I
Reading: Dowden, *Logical Reasoning* (pp. 181-190)
Day 24: Critical Thinking and Communication II
Reading: Dowden, *Logical Reasoning* (pp. 191-202)

Day 25: Critical Thinking and Writing I
Reading: Dowden, *Logical Reasoning* (pp. 215-223)
Day 26: Critical Thinking and Writing II
Reading: Dowden, *Logical Reasoning* (pp. 223-233)

Day 27: Avoiding Deception I
Reading: Dowden, *Logical Reasoning* (pp. 244-255)
Day 28: Avoiding Deception II
Reading: Dowden, *Logical Reasoning* (pp. 256-263)

Day 29: Scientific Reasoning I
Reading: Dowden, *Logical Reasoning* (pp. 532-549)
Day 30: Scientific Reasoning II
Reading: Dowden, *Logical Reasoning* (pp. 550-577)